

REMARKS

Claims 9-25 remain in this application. Claims 1-8 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Each of independent claims 9, 16, 19, and 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), along with the remaining, dependent claims, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,363,771 to Liang et al. Reconsideration is requested.

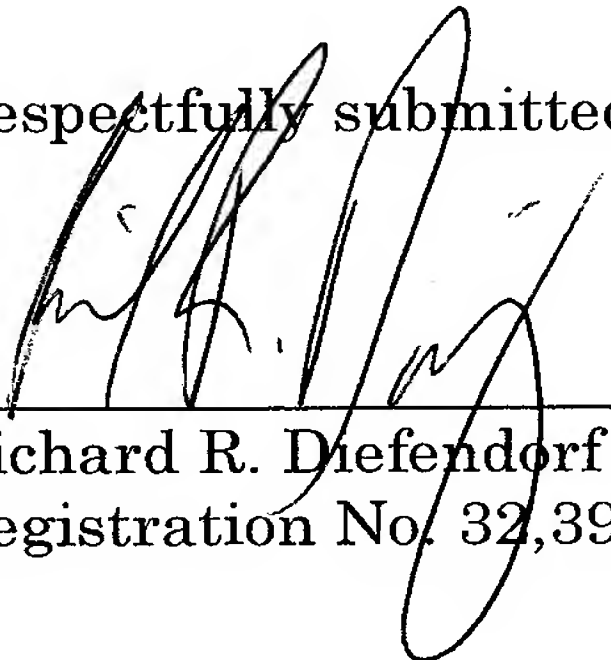
All of the independent claims mentioned are amended above to reflect the vehicle restarting prevention feature described, for example, in paragraph 0021 of the substitute specification. The Liang et al system does not operate to prevent restarting of a vehicle after that vehicle has been switched off if a reducing agent storage tank is emptied as each of the independent claims mentioned requires, and the anticipation rejection of these claims is not now applicable. Nothing else identified by the Examiner suggests modifying the Liang et al. system so that it meets the limitations added to claim 9 or so as to perform the methods including the limitations added to claims 16, 19, and 20, moreover, and the independent claims noted should now be patentable. All other claims in this application are dependent claims and should be patentable as well.

This application is considered to be in allowable condition for reasons discussed. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 095309.57817US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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